

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00326 201623Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 468
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0326

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR JOHN MCNEILL FOR LUERS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT PGEN HU US
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN MFN ASSURANCES

REF: (A) STATE 15152 (B) BUDAPEST 105 (C) BUDAPEST 116

1. I HAVE REVIEWED CAREFULLY THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED LANGUAGE IN REFTEL (A) AND AM CONCERNED THAT PRESENTATION OF IT TO THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
2. WE ACCEPTED EARLIER THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE, AMENDED BY US TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (77 STATE 310279). SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN THE SECRETARY MET WITH FONMIN PUJA ON JAN 7, PUJA SUGGESTED THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR THE UDHR. AT THAT TIME, THE SECRETARY REACTED POSITIVELY AND TOLD PUJA THAT HE THOUGHT THE HUNGARIAN SUGGESTION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE BUT WANTED TO HAVE IT CHECKED IN WASHINGTON.
3. HAVING GONE PRETTY FAR DOWN THE ROAD TO AGREEMENT ON ASSURANCES DEPARTMENT NOW IS PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE A NEW FORMULATION WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERS, AT LEAST
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IN THE GOH PERCEPTION, THE LANGUAGE WE HAVE HAD UNDER DISCUSSION AT ANY POINT DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS. I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE ANXIOUSLY SEEKING A WAY TO GIVE US THE ASSURANCES REQUIRED BY OUR LAW, WHILE NOT ANTAGONIZING THE SOVIET UNION AT THE SAME TIME. APPARENTLY THEIR SOLUTION TO THIS DILEMMA IS TO CITE DOCUMENTS WHICH THE HUNGARIANS AND

THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED.

4. THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE IN REFTEL (A) NOT ONLY BACKS AWAY FROM WHAT THE SECRETARY TOLD PUJA JAN 7, BUT IT ALSO IMPLIES THAT OUR OWN LANGUAGE PROPOSAL OF JAN 3 ((77STATE 310279) IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE AT THIS LATE DATE. TO GIVE THE HUNGARIANS THIS TYPE OF POLITICAL SIGNAL -- TIGHTENING RATHER THAN LOOSENING -- IN OUR FIRST SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE SINCE THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WOULD BE A MISTAKE.

5. FINALLY, THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LANGUAGE AT THIS STAGE WOULD MAKE HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THE PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE ASSURANCES QUESTION AND CONSEQUENTLY THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN A FEW WEEKS AS DESIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT. IF WE DO NOT BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS BY MID-FEBRUARY IT IS DOUBTFUL WE CAN COMPLETE THEM BY THE FIRST OF APRIL. WE, THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMAN VANIK, RUN THE RISK OF DELAYING MFN UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

I REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE LANGUAGE IN REFTEL (A) TO SEE IF IT CAN ARRIVE LANGUAGE WHICH COMPARES MORE CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. PROPOSAL OF JAN 3 AND THE HUNGARIAN RESPONSE OF JAN 7. WE INDICATED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY THAT WE HOPED TO HAVE A REPLY TO PUJA'S PROPOSAL TO THE SECRETARY BY THE END OF LAST WEEK (BUDAPEST 116). I AM THEREFORE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH NAGY JAN 27, AND WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE FOR USE AT THAT TIME.
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NNN

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